



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

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Mission Statement:

Recognizing the close interdependence between people and the environment, the Environmental Health Division assures that the interaction of people and the environment minimizes the risk to public health and well being.

Environmental Health

§ **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

§ **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

§ **ANIMAL CONTROL**

§ **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

§ **DENTAL HEALTH**

§ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

1997-98
Annual
Report

Environmental Health

Consumer Services & Health Protection

- ☞ Food Protection
- ☞ Quality Child Care
- ☞ Water Quality
- ☞ Public Health Nuisances



"It really meant a lot to the Swanson Corporation to be publicly recognized as the winner of the Board of Health's annual 'Excellence in Food Service Sanitation' award. This award program is an excellent way to encourage safe food handling."

Sandy Hobelman
Swanson
Corporation

Food Protection Program

Health Objective For the Year 2000 - To reduce the incidence of foodborne disease.

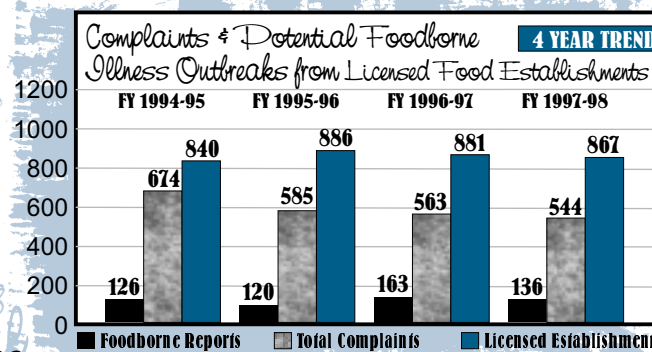
Illnesses caused by foodborne pathogens continue to pose significant public health risks. News reports of contaminated food and new emerging diseases continue to cause much public alarm. The Food Protection Program's goal is to assure that commercially prepared food is safe to consume. 867 restaurants and retail markets are licensed throughout Lancaster County. Food Handler and Food Manager education and testing, technical assistance, regular inspections, and enforcement are the four main aspects of the Program. Technical assistance ranges from plan review for those that may be expanding, remodeling or building new facilities to menu review and hazard analysis of critical control points in food preparation processes. Public complaints on food establishments and potential food borne disease outbreaks are investigated quickly.

Community Involvement Assures both the Public and Industry are Heard

The Food Advisory Committee advises staff and the Board of Health on how to best protect the public's health from foodborne illness. We involve industry and citizen representatives in the review of existing or proposed procedures, regulations and educational programs and in recommendations to the Board. This active committee has proven itself to be of great value to the community by continually assisting the Department in its mission of public health protection and community participation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ 189 Food Managers attended three, one-half day continuing education seminars developed by LLCHD, with help from UNL, Lancaster County Extension and the Nebraska Restaurant Association. Topics included food sanitation, personal hygiene, preventing foodborne illness and employee retention.
- ☛ 8,627 Food Handlers and Food Managers received permits through LLCHD, UNL, and Southeast Community College education programs. In addition, the Nebraska Restaurant Association offers a home study course for Food Managers. A once-a-month class in Spanish is offered as well as classes in Vietnamese when requested. A special food safety training seminar was provided to 100 "Farmer's Market" participants.
- ☛ Staff received training in applying and interpreting the new Nebraska Food Code. This Code went into effect in September 1997. This is the most significant change in the Food Code in over 20 years. The new code is expected to afford greater public health protection and give more flexibility to food operations.



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

- ☛ 544 complaints on food establishments were received, including 136 reports of possible foodborne illness. Two significant foodborne illness outbreaks were confirmed through epidemiologic investigation and laboratory testing. Measures to prevent future outbreaks were taken.
- ☛ 2,485 sanitation inspections were performed in restaurants, retail markets, and schools.
- ☛ 243 on-site technical assistance consultations and 1356 phone consultations were provided.
- ☛ 50 warning notices were issued and 4 establishments had their permit to operate suspended until corrective actions were completed. Special emphasis was given to temperature violations, which are frequently associated with foodborne illness.

Quality Child Care

Quality child care is developed through: educating parents, providers, employers, and policy makers; providing parent referral to licensed providers; licensing and inspection; and encouraging licensed providers to exceed regulations in the areas of disease and injury prevention and child development.

Child Care Needs In Lancaster County

By comparing data on parents in the work force and the capacity of licensed child care facilities and before and after school programs, the need for additional licensed child care providers was determined. This data, plus research which has shown that poorer work performance is associated with a lack of affordable, quality options for child and dependent care, paints a clear picture of child care needs exceeding licensed capacity throughout Lincoln and Lancaster County.

"The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has served as a helpful resource to our program, providing valuable information and advice through inspections. We are fortunate to have this service in the Lincoln community."

Nancy Rosenow
First Plymouth
Preschool

Setting Policy to Protect Children's Health in Child Care

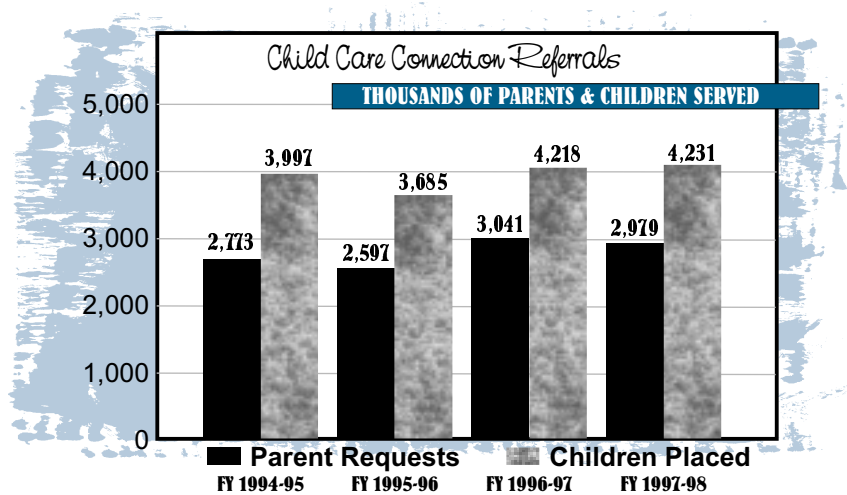
Sixteen citizens comprise the City County Child Care Advisory Committee which gives guidance to the Health Department, Board of Health, elected officials, and other community agencies concerned about children's health or involved in child care. Active subcommittees specifically address improving and increasing the availability of infant care, school age child care and sick child care.

The Health Department pursued and received a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a curricula for child care providers concerning "Children's Environmental Health." Once developed, the curricula will be used to train child care providers in ways to reduce the health risks posed by environmental hazards such as pesticides, Lead, Mercury, and indoor air pollution.

Assuring High Quality Child Care

2,979 parents needing care for 4,231 children received lists of licensed child care providers from the computerized Child Care Connection resource and referral service. Parental choice in type of care and preferred location is accommodated.

1,760 child care homes, centers, and agencies received a monthly calendar on training opportunities in First Aid, CPR, disease prevention, fire safety, food safety, and child development.



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

A community-wide outbreak of Shigellosis was finally contained after several months of disease spread often affecting children in child care settings. Delayed reporting of this disease to our Department made early containment of this outbreak very difficult. Frequent news releases, physician advisories and updates to child care providers and schools kept the disease in the public's mind and greatly enhanced disease reporting. Immediate response by the Department's Epidemiology Team to new cases with on-site education by Environmental Health Specialists and Public Health Nurses kept the number of infected persons to a minimum.

1105 inspections of child care facilities were completed and 77 complaints on child care were investigated.

Special technical assistance was provided to people developing six new child care facilities to assure the design would protect children's health and safety and enhance child development. This included three on-site child care centers in businesses.



Family Care Solutions (FCS) is a public private collaboration with businesses, educational institutions, LLCHD, and the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging supporting families in the full range of dependent care needs. In the extremely tight labor market in Lincoln, businesses are increasingly looking for ways to help families and retain good employees. Educational seminars, personal support, resources and referrals are made available to employees of participating businesses. The entire community benefits by the increased quality of child care available to every child. FCS is made possible by the investment of the following participating employers: Aliant Communications, Ameritas Life, Experian, Quest Diagnostics, Lincoln Journal Star, Novartis Consumer Health, Inc., Pathology Medical Services, St. Mary's Catholic School and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



"We've used Family Care Solutions for five years. It has become an integral part of our benefits package providing peace of mind for our employees and has increased morale and productivity. I strongly recommend FCS to any company."

Ron Anderson
Director of
Human Resources
Quest Diagnostics

61 educational presentations were made to parents at member companies.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To conserve and protect ground and surface water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use.

The Water Quality Protection Program assures that groundwater is protected from contamination, water from private wells is safe to drink, sewage is managed to prevent human exposure and environmental contamination, and pools and spas are safe for public recreation. Preventing groundwater contamination by Nitrates, disease-causing organisms, pesticides, fuel and other chemicals is a program priority. Proposed land developments which will rely on groundwater for wells and private sewage disposal are carefully reviewed to assure adequate water quality and quantity and acceptable sewage disposal. All newly drilled domestic wells within Lincoln's 3-mile jurisdiction are inspected and sampled. All new private sewage systems constructed in the entire County are reviewed for correct design and inspected prior to final covering.

LLCHD has developed partnerships with rural communities to protect groundwater. This past year, the majority of the work was done by student volunteers from the Malcolm, Norris, Raymond, and Waverly High Schools. These students, coordinated by a teacher at each school, use an LLCHD created "Groundwater and Environmental Contamination Pollution Prevention Self-help Checklist" to work with farm and acreage owners in wellhead protection areas.



Assessment of our Water Quality

The public health risks associated with contaminated water and sewage are well known. Programs aimed at preventing illness in infants from Nitrate exposure and diarrheal illness from sewage have existed for many years. Water quality testing is done through sampling private wells for bacteria, Nitrates, and other chemical contaminants.

All water wells have been incorporated into a Geographic Information System database. This provides an excellent resource for assessing water quality in specific areas of the County.

Public pools and spas are inspected and tested for regulatory required levels of disinfectant, water clarity and safety equipment needed for rescue.

Policy Development and Quality Assurance for Safe Water

Changes to the on-site sewage treatment system program have increased public health protection by only approving standard systems, requiring a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) to design anything other than a standard system, and taking enforcement action on systems installed incorrectly or without benefit of a permit. Several failed systems were identified through complaints and required to be repaired.

In an effort to increase compliance with codes, enforcement actions were pursued on several cases in which sewage systems were installed or repaired without the benefit of a permit or not installed in accord with permit conditions.

Meetings were held with sewage system installers to provide updates on policy and regulations. The possibility of creating a licensing system for sewage treatment system installers was discussed. This concept was favorably received and will be pursued in next fiscal year.

Three acreage subdivisions just outside the City limit were annexed based on Health Department recommendation that it was necessary to do so to protect the public's health from risks posed by their old, failing sewage systems. City sewer will soon be provided to each of these subdivisions.

Health Department staff worked on an inter-agency team on a grant to develop curricula to train sewage system installers and provide educational materials for septic system owners. UNL will administer the grant. LLCHD will pilot test the educational materials with local installers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ LLCHD helped the Village Board of Davey to coordinate a "Find a Well Day" which involved students from Waverly High School. Their efforts resulted in finding five wells that needed to be abandoned.
- ☛ Waverly High School implemented the Groundwater Pollution Prevention Self-help Checklist at 54 farms and acreage residences in their school district.
- ☛ 1217 water well and sewage system inspections were performed.
- ☛ 102 proposals for changes in land use were reviewed to assure adequate quantity and quality of water, adequate sewer, and that public and environmental health risks were addressed. Plan reviews may involve on-site visits to determine compliance with existing water, sewer or other regulations, accessing data bases for information of groundwater quality and quantity and soil types, and identifying flood plain and right-of-way concerns.
- ☛ 239 water well permits were issued.
- ☛ 433 drinking water samples were collected from private and community wells. Water from new and existing wells is tested for Nitrate and fecal Coliform bacteria to determine suitability for drinking. Volatile organic chemical testing was performed on selected wells.
- ☛ 454 inspections of swimming pools and spas/hot tubs were completed. 38 pools or spas were closed temporarily until conditions were safe for public use. Typically, chlorine residuals were not being maintained at levels which kill common disease causing bacteria.
- ☛ For the second consecutive year, LLCHD assisted in providing the State "Certified Pool Operators Clinic."

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES & COMMUNITY SANITATION

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health and environmental consequences of solid and liquid waste.

Basic sanitation conditions reflect the overall health of a community and are associated with a multitude of public health impacts, including Lead poisoning, poorer health outcomes in pregnancy, communicable disease transmission, low vaccination rates, rat and other scavenging animal problems, and violence. Recognizing this connection, the Mayor and City Council developed a Problem Resolution Team to address "problem" properties and repeat offenders. Urban Development has championed the Focus Area Concept Team, which focuses efforts on neighborhoods which are especially impacted by blighting conditions. These two teams have improved interdepartmental communication leading to more unified actions to address significant crime, quality of life and community sanitation issues. The Public Health Nuisance Program responds quickly to complaints on garbage, safety concerns, standing water and other health nuisance conditions. Enforcement actions include abatement of the condition posing a risk to the public's health and taking court action.

Measuring the Impact of Litter and Illegal Dumping

Anti-illegal dumping efforts this past year were two-fold. First, LLCHD focused on increasing public awareness of the importance of reporting dumping. Second, to decrease the likelihood of "copycat" dumping, LLCHD worked to decrease the amount of time between when a dump site is reported and when it is cleaned up. A new contract for services was let to improve responsiveness. Illegal dumping complaints for tires, appliances, lawn waste, and garbage decreased for the second straight year despite the campaign to report dumpings. However, reports of special and hazardous waste dumpings increased. The concentration and amount of litter in the community is scientifically surveyed each year. The 1998 litter survey found a slight decrease compared to the 1996 base line. Lincoln and Lancaster County continue take great pride in being "clean," but littering still occurs.

Efforts to Improve Community Sanitation

Based upon revision of city codes and improved interdepartmental communication, more coordinated efforts were developed to deal with problematic situations. Building and Safety has assumed enforcement of the Mayor's Quality of Life Ordinances. In addition, representatives of LLCHD participate on the City's Problem Resolution Team and Focus Area Concept Team.



"The City grants for neighborhood association clean-ups not only help us fund efforts to make our neighborhood a cleaner, healthier and safer environment, they also increase bonds between neighbors. Nothing increases community connectedness like rallying together to address a common good cause."

Dick Patterson,
Woods Park
Neighborhood
Association clean-up
coordinator, & 1997
Bruce Baugh Memorial
Award winner

Education Combined With Enforcement is the Most Effective Combination in Changing Behavior

The Lincoln-Lancaster Clean Community System program was renamed this past year to the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful Program (KLLCB) to provide greater recognition with the well-known national organization, Keep America Beautiful, of which KLLCB is a local affiliate.

**KEEP
LINCOLN & LANCASTER
COUNTY
BEAUTIFUL**



1997-98
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Annual Report

KLLCB continues to take a "grassroots" approach to environmental education and frequently mobilizes citizen's groups, neighborhoods and local schools to keep our environment clean. A hard working advisory committee helps establish goals and priorities. The mission of the KLLCB program is to improve waste handling practices and increase environmental awareness through education and participation, and to keep Lancaster County litter free.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ 223 reports of illegal dumping of non-hazardous waste were received; a 38% decrease from last year. 166 of these were along County roads and were referred to a private contractor for clean-up. This compares to 368 illegal dumping reports and 240 County roadside dumpings last year. Staff believe this reduction is due in part to the educational campaign to reduce illegal dumping and increased enforcement efforts, funded by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. Billboards, bumper stickers and litter bags encourage citizens to report illegal dumpers to the Sheriff's office.
- ☛ 13,689 hours of volunteer time were generated by KLLCB activities. 3,103 individuals volunteered their time and effort to make Lincoln and Lancaster County a cleaner, safer place to live.
- ☛ The KLLCB Program assisted 67 neighborhood associations, special interest groups and villages in cleanup efforts resulting in recycling 82,000 lbs. and proper disposal of more than 900,000 lbs. of solid waste. KLLCB helped administer the \$20,000 that the City Public Works Department budgeted to help neighborhoods do clean-ups. KLLCB focuses on keeping costs low and getting people to focus on keeping a clean neighborhood all year around, rather than one clean-up a year.
- ☛ Over 180 volunteers helped the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful Program make the Star City Holiday Festival Parade a successful litter-free event. 80 youth from 22 different schools performed in the KLLCB "Trash Can Band," which received the **"BEST WALKING UNIT"** award.



1,142 public health nuisance complaints were investigated. Complaints typically involve garbage, acute safety hazards, illegal dumping, or rodent problems. Compliance efforts required 2,128 on-site inspections. 270 Warning Notices were issued and 29 cases were referred to the City Attorney's Office for prosecution. 22 nuisance abatements were completed in which garbage or other nuisance conditions were removed by the Health Department and costs were assessed to the property.

\$37,942 was received from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to fund new and ongoing activities of the KLLCB Program. In addition, \$6,000 was distributed to villages, neighborhood associations, and special interest organizations in the form of mini-grants for clean-up efforts in public areas.

POLLUTION PREVENTION AND AIR QUALITY

Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention is any activity that reduces the toxicity or amount of waste generated. Pollution Prevention makes good public health sense and applies equally well to indoor air, outdoor air, groundwater, surface water, soils and to personal exposure to environmental health hazards in the home or workplace.

Collaborative efforts with the Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, business and industry, advisory boards, volunteers and others make Pollution Prevention a community wide effort.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ☛ Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) coordinated the annual "Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards," which is co-sponsored with the Public Works and Utilities Department. Category award winners were:
 - ☛ Clean-up and Beautification - Girl Scout Troops #510 & #515; West Lincoln Wildcats 4-H Club
 - ☛ Pollution Prevention (toxicity reduction) - Parker-Hannifin; Voss Lighting; Ransomes Textron
 - ☛ Water Conservation-UNISERVICE, Inc.
 - ☛ Waste Reduction and Recycling - Pfizer Animal; Lincoln Northeast Ecology Club; Jim DeFreece Auto Parts & Sales
 - ☛ Residential/Commercial Development - Sherrie Gregory/Heritage Prairies Kicking Bird Subdivision
 - ☛ Bruce Baugh Memorial Award (for individual achievement) - John Dahl

"Voss Lighting appreciated being recognized for our efforts to be good environmental stewards by promoting the least toxic alternative lighting available on the market today."

*Mike Little
Voss Lighting*



- ☛ The Storm Water Awareness Program (SWAP) coordinates community volunteers to stencil storm drain inlets and distribute fish-shaped information cards to homes to increase awareness that what goes down a storm drain goes directly into our streams and lakes. Due to the inspiration and effort of Harry Heafer, Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful Coordinator, the Public Works Department now requires all new storm drain inlets installed in Lincoln to have a fish symbol and the words "NO DUMPING" and "LEADS TO STREAM" permanently imprinted into the concrete. Two professional journals included information on this unique approach resulting in over 80 requests for information from across the nation.
- ☛ Eight LLCHD staff were among approximately 80 presenters at the Earth Wellness Festival. Nearly 3,000 fifth-grade students and teachers attend this annual event. LLCHD presentations ranged from how air pollution affects people's lungs and health to being a wise consumer by learning to read labels and buy the least toxic product.
- ☛ Hazardous (toxic) Air Pollutants (HAPs) vary in their toxicity to human health. LLCHD developed a risk based prioritization methodology to target business pollution prevention technical assistance efforts on those HAPs which pose the greatest public health risks.
- ☛ Special attention was placed on providing technical assistance to businesses located in at-risk neighborhoods in central Lincoln.

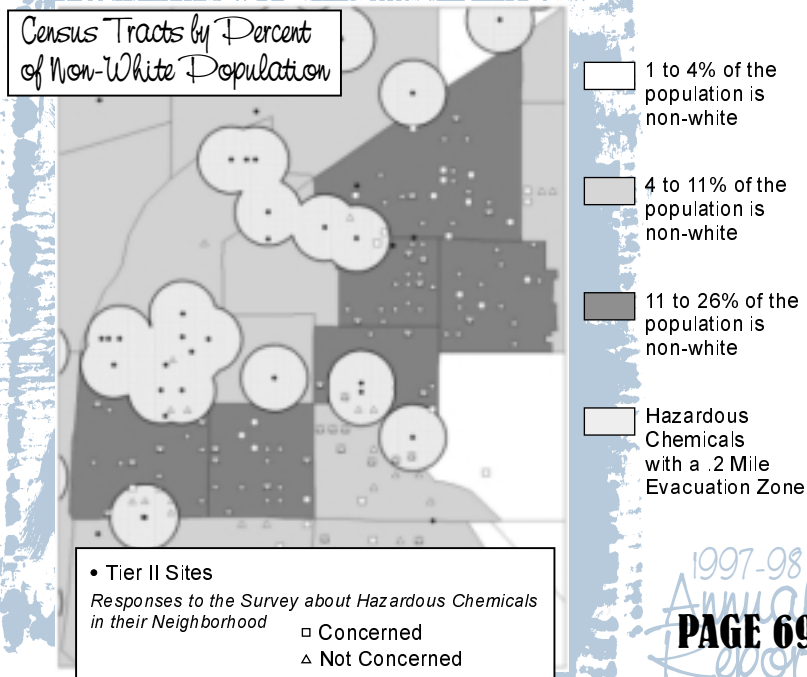
"The Health Department's eager desire to protect people of all cultures from environmental health hazards has truly helped reduce concerns in the Vietnamese and other minority communities. Knowing that businesses in our neighborhoods were getting help to reduce the risk of chemical spills was reassuring. Over 50 people attended the one-half day Environmental Health Fair at the Asian Cultural Center and learned about how they could prevent pollution and reduce their health risks at work and home."



Maria Vu
Asian Cultural Center

Environmental Justice Grant Project

Identifying environmental hazards with the potential to impact the health of Lincoln's minority communities and using pollution prevention to reduce those risks has been the focus of a two year grant funded by the EPA. Previous survey work had identified the knowledge, behavior, beliefs and practices related to environmental health hazards in our minorities communities. Using this information, LLCHD subcontracted four minority organizations to develop efforts within their own community to address the findings of the survey and educate their community on health risks and ways to reduce those risks. Sources of environmental hazard, such as businesses that store large quantities of hazardous materials or emit air pollution, were identified and mapped using Geographic Information System software. These sites were then overlayed with data on where minority populations primarily live in Lincoln. Pollution prevention education and on-site technical assistance were targeted to those businesses located in areas with the greatest percentage of minorities. During the project, 125 homes were visited by LLCHD pollution prevention trained outreach workers, 53 community meetings and events were held, 16 businesses received pollution prevention technical assistance, and 1350 pounds of household hazardous waste were collected. Eleven organizations participated in the project.



Outdoor Air Quality

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To improve and/or maintain the outdoor air quality to protect the public's health and welfare.

Quality Environmental Health Assessments Form the Foundation for Good Risk-based Decision-Making and Reducing the Risk to the Public's Health

Progress on Year 2000 Objectives

The levels of "criteria" air pollutants are below health-based standards.

Emissions of Hazardous (toxic) Air Pollutants have decreased dramatically, even with a doubling in the number of businesses required to report such pollution.

Assessment of outdoor air quality and potential public health risks posed by air pollution is gathered through two sources. The first data set consists of ongoing monitoring of Lincoln's and Lancaster County's air quality for Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), and particulate matter (PM₁₀). CO is monitored in two locations in Lincoln 24 hours per day. Ozone is monitored in the summer months when conditions are most conducive to its formation. Particulate matter samples are collected throughout the year. The other data set is the amount and kind of air pollution emitted by the largest air pollution sources (business, industry and government). Computer modeling is performed on potential new sources of air pollution to assure that health risk levels will not be exceeded. Larger businesses and industries have specific restrictions placed on them to protect the public's health from air pollution. These restrictions are part of LLCHD's air pollution source Operating Permit Program. Businesses and industries using and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, water or soil are offered pollution prevention technical assistance.

Policy Development

LLCHD influenced federal EPA policy to create an incentive (a reduced regulatory burden) for implementation of Pollution Prevention activities that result in actual reduced emissions of Hazardous (toxic) Air Pollutants.

Significant changes in national policy on ambient air quality standards require LLCHD to create a new monitoring plan for very small particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). This new regulation focuses monitoring on particulates that are believed to pose the most risk to human health.

The Air Pollution Control Advisory Board (APCAB), composed of industry representatives, an elected official, and public spirited citizens, advises the Board of Health and elected officials in policy matters related to outdoor air quality. APCAB's efforts focused on developing fee strategies which would more equitably distribute program costs to all sources of air pollution.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ 17,234 hours of outdoor air monitoring for Carbon Monoxide (CO) and 5,026 hours of air monitoring for Ozone (O3) were completed this year. 103 air samples were collected and analyzed for ambient air levels of particulate matter. Lincoln maintained complete compliance with all national ambient air quality standards for the 11th straight year.
- ☛ Of the 69 inspections completed of air pollution sources, only one business was out of compliance with requirements.
- ☛ Two businesses completed Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) to resolve air pollution violations. These projects resulted in air pollution reductions and additional environmental benefits beyond what is required.
- ☛ Air pollution emission inventory reports were reviewed for 116 Lancaster County industries/businesses.
- ☛ The Environmental Health Division received \$101,243 from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to fund new and ongoing activities in the Outdoor Air Quality Program.
- ☛ 56 on-site pollution prevention technical assistance visits were conducted at small businesses to help them in completing regulatory reporting requirements and in reducing waste and air pollution emissions.
- ☛ 167 inspections of building demolition projects for proper asbestos removal were completed.

Indoor Air Quality

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health risks caused by indoor air pollutants in residences, work sites, and public places.

LLCHD provides technical assistance in identifying sources of indoor air pollution, preventing indoor air pollution, and solving indoor air quality problems in businesses, government work sites, apartment complexes and private residences. Pollutants creating the majority of health problems include paints and solvents, pesticides, environmental tobacco smoke, mold/mildew, particulate matter and mercury vapors (from broken thermometers and other sources).

This year, LLCHD worked with several schools which volunteered to implement EPA's "Tools for Schools" program to assure that school staff had a system in place to evaluate and solve indoor air quality problems.

1,803 requests for assistance with indoor air quality problems were handled. 224 on-site investigations were conducted to determine sources of poor indoor air quality and 1151 environmental tests were done. 2959 indoor air quality technical assistance related phone calls were handled.

A Core Function of the Environmental Health Division is to Assure Health Protection Through Appropriate Regulation

Special Waste Program

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health and environmental consequences of solid and liquid waste.

The Special Waste Program protects public health and the environment by inventorying business wastes, encouraging pollution prevention, reuse and recycling, and assuring proper disposal. This program is a collaborative effort with the Public Works and Utilities Department. Technical assistance is provided to businesses to help them comply with regulations. This program also assures that only waste which can be accepted at the Landfill is permitted to go there. Other wastes may require special treatment before disposal or may be hazardous. Compliance inspections are conducted and enforcement actions are taken when needed. Illegal disposal of special and hazardous waste is investigated.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ 816 special waste inventories from local businesses were reviewed; 804 special waste permits were issued to businesses.
- ☛ 1,615 requests for technical assistance on managing special and hazardous wastes from local businesses and agencies were filled.
- ☛ A Partners in Pollution Prevention project with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln resulted in technical assistance being provided by engineering students to 16 local businesses.
- ☛ 6 comprehensive Special Waste compliance inspections were conducted at facilities which generate the largest quantities of potentially hazardous waste.

- ☛ 85 investigations of illegal special waste disposal were completed. Compliance assistance was provided to each business and legal action was taken in several instances.
- ☛ 4885 pieces of educational materials were sent to businesses regarding special waste handling.
- ☛ 14 salvage yards were inspected to assure compliance with regulations designed to protect public health and the environment.

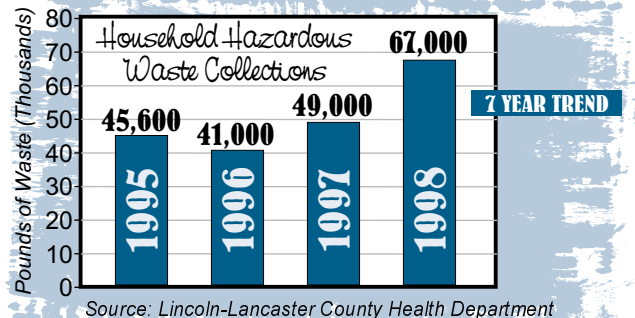
Household Hazardous Waste

Health Objectives for the Year 2000

- A. To reduce the health impact of hazardous materials.
- B. To reduce the health and environment consequences of solid and liquid waste.

As the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program enters its 14th year, it continues to focus on three primary objectives: educating the public on choosing least toxic products; getting the most toxic and hazardous waste out of people's homes, garages, barns and basements thereby reducing health and environmental risks; and encouraging the recycling of oil, paint, batteries and other hazardous waste for which local recycling alternatives exist. The Program's intent is NOT to collect every kind of hazardous waste from every person, but to help citizens correctly handle, recycle and dispose hazardous waste. The program prevents significant quantities of hazardous waste from being dumped in the landfill. Old pesticides, such as Chlordane, DDT and 2,4,5-T, solvent based paint, furniture stripping agents, mercury containing devices, and PCBs are brought to every collection site. As part of the Environmental Justice grant, a special collection was held at the Malone Center. And for the first time ever, a local industry, Pfizer Animal Health, sponsored a HHW Collection as a community service.

This was a very successful collection and showed true corporate commitment to our community and to environmental stewardship.

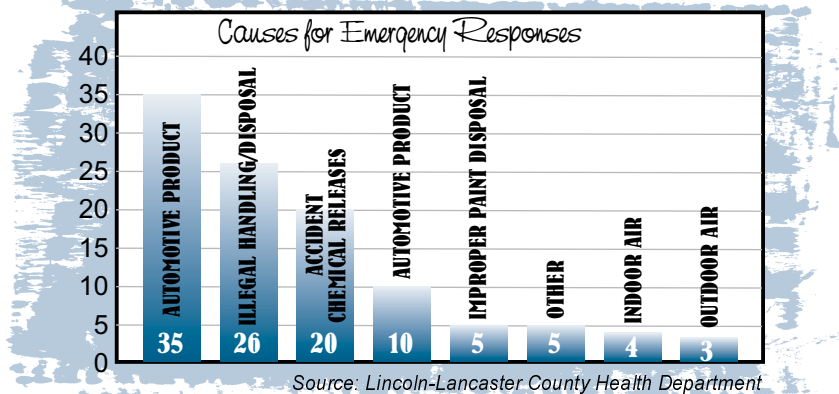


HIGHLIGHTS

- 68,673 pounds of hazardous waste were collected from 1488 households at 8 different Household Hazardous Waste Collections.
- Technical assistance was provided to 460 citizens needing to get rid of household hazardous waste.
- The annual Spring Paint Exchange resulted in over 200 gallons of paint being reused and another 100 gallons being recycled into caulk and glue.
- 19 educational presentations on Household Hazardous Waste were made, including at the Earth Wellness Festival, and 5 new educational materials were developed.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Program

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - A) To reduce the health impact of hazardous materials. B) To reduce the health and environment consequences of solid and liquid waste.

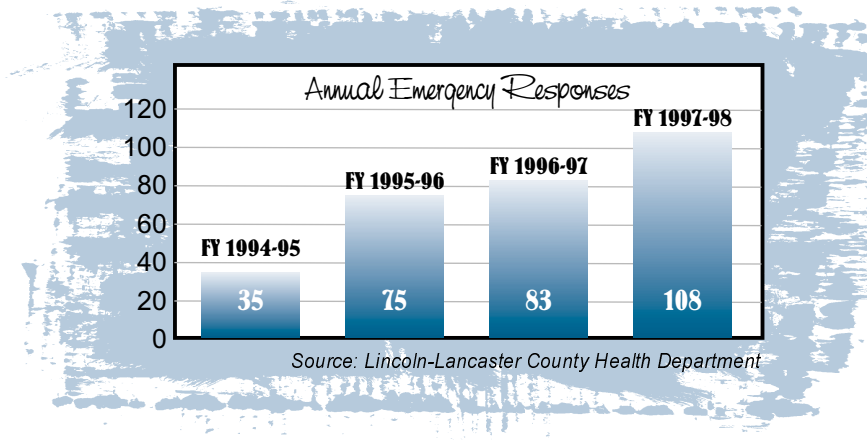


LLCHD responds 24-hours a day to emergency events involving the release of hazardous materials. In 1997-98 the Emergency Response Team responded to 108 emergencies, 25 more than last year. Most responses are in conjunction with the Lincoln Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team or rural fire departments. Responses included spills of automotive fluids, illegal handling or disposal, accidental chemical releases (both indoors and out), pesticides spills, high levels of Carbon Monoxide and volatile organic chemicals in buildings, illegal dumping of caustic lime and borax, and discharge of water which was grossly polluted by an industrial process into Salt Creek.

The largest single category of the responses involve the release of gas, oil, or diesel fuel to the environment, causing potential public health risks and environmental damage to streams.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☛ An intentional illegal dumping of several piles of borax on a County Road was investigated and the responsible party eventually identified through excellent investigative skill and technique. Charges were filed, restitution made, and fines were levied.
- ☛ Discharge of grossly contaminated water to Salt Creek was traced to an unknown illegal connection to the storm drain. This business was required to disconnect this and discharge the water to the sanitary sewer for proper treatment.



GRANTS & AWARDS

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Clean-up Minigrants	\$ 6,000
Litter Reduction and Environmental Education	\$ 37,942
Household and Business Hazardous Waste Pollution Prevention, Recycling and Disposal (year two)	\$ 81,201
Outdoor Air Quality	\$101,243

US Environmental Protection Agency

Chemical Emergency Response Technical Assistance 112(r)	\$ 80,000
Environmental Education - Children's Environmental Health Curricula Development and Implementation	\$ 53,900
Environmental Education - Groundwater Pollution Prevention Curricula Development for High Schools (year two)	\$ 5,000
Environmental Justice/Pollution Prevention GIS & Community Outreach in Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations	\$ 88,400
Indoor Air Quality - Tools for Schools	\$ 18,000

The Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful's "Trash Can Band" won the Star City Holiday Parade's "Best Walking Unit" award.

Susan Budler, the Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful Committee Chairperson, was recognized by the County Board as the City/County Volunteer of the Month.

Lancaster County was designated a Groundwater Guardian Community and LLCHD was honored as a Groundwater Guardian Affiliate by the National Groundwater Foundation for our innovative Wellhead protection work.

The "Groundwater and Environmental Pollution Prevention Self-help Checklist" was given "Honorable Mention" in Region VII EPA's annual Pollution Prevention Awards contest.

The Norris High School Chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) recognized LLCHD at its annual meeting for our partnership in implementing the use of the "Groundwater and Environmental Pollution Prevention Self-help Checklist."

Lincoln and Lancaster County were represented by Environmental Health Division staff serving as elected or appointed officials on the following national, regional, or state boards, associations or committees:

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Environmental Health Advisory Committee and Excellence in Environmental Health Award Reviewer

Association of State and Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO)

National, EPA Region VII and State Pollution Prevention Roundtables

U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Initiative Task Force

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Special Waste Task Force

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board

Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

LB 1185 Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention

Groundwater Guardian Ambassador for the National Groundwater Foundation

Midwest Regional Affiliates of Keep America Beautiful

Nebraska Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

Nebraska Public Health Association (NPHA)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Turning Point Stakeholders and co-chair of the Turning Point Environmental Health Task Force

Nebraska Environmental Education Association (NEEA)

Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund Grant Reviewers

